THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) It is a fact that a quantity of around 200 kilo litre of furnace oil is estimated to have leaked into the Damodar River out of oil storage tank of refractory material plant of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) and had caused contamination to the river water.

(b) The details of action taken to purify the water are as follows:

(i) Immediately after hearing from the Coal Mines Area Development Authority, Government of Bihar, the Management of Bokaro Steel Plant rushed on April 6, 1990, a team of officers and workforce with all the implements to diffuse the effect of oil on the water supply to Dhanbad and adjacent area;

(ii) Elaborate arrangements were made to burn out the oil wherever possible and barricade oil from the intake area of the pump house at Jamadoba;

(iii) The supply of drinking water was also supplemented by the Bokaro Steel Plant Management using tankers;

(iv) Senior Officers of Bokaro Management alongwith the district authorities worked round the clock in clearing the accumulated oil and restoring water supply, which was duly done on April 10, 1990, after ensuring that the quality of filtered water was absolutely normal; and

(v) Additional water was also opened from Tenughat Dam Reservoir to the extent of 2600 cusecs.

In order to avoid recurrence of such an incident, the Management of Bokaro Steel Plant have taken the following steps:—

(i) The drainage system valves have been blanked with steel plates;

(ii) All oil separation chambers have been flushed and cleared;

(iii) The frequency of inspection and monitoring of the effluents has been increased to daily basis;

(iv) A coffer dam at the outfall channel is being built to decant the oil; and

(v) An elaborate system for pollution control with the help of internationally renowned consultants.

Laying down Gidelines for fixing the Timings of General Election and Bye-elections

191. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI SUSHIL BARONGPA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 308 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether any decision has finally been taken regarding laying down comprehensive guidelines in the Election Law, itself for fixing the timings of general election and bye-elections to avoid any public criticism of the Election Commission regarding arbitrariness and partiality; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) There already exist several constitutional constraints on the Election Commission in regard to timing of the general elections. The question whether a time limit within which a bye-election must be held, should be prescribed by law, is presently under consideration of the Committee on Electoral Reforms appointed by the Government to go into all aspects of elections. The

recommendations of the Committee are awaited.

Implementation of the Recommendations contained in the 114th Report of Law Commission

192. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI SUSHIL BARONGPA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement the recommendations of the Law Commission given in their 114th Report regarding decentralisation of judicial system in the country;

(b) if so, what is the time-frame for the same; and

(c) what would be the salient features of the courts working at the village / Panchayat levels?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to incorporate the salient features of the Gram Nyayalayas in the Nyaya Panchayat institution proposed to be set up under the Panchayat Raj System to the extent it is possible.

Setting up of a Bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court

193. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI SUSHIL BARONGPA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer the Unstarred Question 3523 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th March, 1989 and state:

(a) what is the present position in regard to the rcommendation made by the Jaswant Singh Commission about setting up of a bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in Chhattisgarh region; and

(b) by when a final decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) The comments and views of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, on the specific recommendations of Jaswant Singh Commission have not yet been received.

Until the State Government sends a proposal in this regard, the question of the Government of India taking a decision does not arise.

Vacancies in Madhya Pradesh High Court

194. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI SUSHIL BARONGPA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are seven vacancies in the total sanctioned strength of 30 Judges and Additional Judges in the Madhya Pradesh High Court as on today;

(b) if so, by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up; and

(c) whether Government propose to fill up any of the above posts from persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) As on 30.4.1990, against the sanctioned strength of 30 Judges and Additional Judges, there are 8 vacancies in the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The process of consultation with the Constitutional authorities for making appointments against these vacancies is on, but it is not possible to indicate any date by which they will be filled up.

(c) The Government have addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes and women, who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.